



Sir John Bodinnar, J.P.

Order of Proceedings

At 11.45 a.m.

Guests and members of the Public assemble in the Town Hall.

Members of the Council robe in the Council Chamber and with the Officers take their seats at the table in the Town Hall.

At 12 noon.

The Mayor (accompanied by his Mace Bearer), with the Town Clerk, enter and take their seats at the table.

The Mayor will call on his Chaplain to say prayers.

The Mayor will read the notice of the Meeting.

The Town Clerk will read letters of apology.

The Town Clerk will read the following resolution :—

At a Special Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Calne held in the Council Chamber on the 20th day of April, 1953, it was proposed by Alderman F. W. Smith, seconded by Councillor C. R. Syms and unanimously resolved that in pursuance of Section 259 of the Local Government Act, 1933, Sir John Bodinnar, J.P., be admitted a Freeman of the Borough in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him as Councillor and Mayor for three successive years, as Governor of St. Mary's and Bentley Schools, Calne, as Justice of the Peace for the County of Wilts., as the Principal of the Borough's leading Industry and in recognition of his outstanding Honorary National Services to the Government and the British Public during and between two World Wars.

The Mayor will propose that Sir John Bodinnar, J.P., be now received as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough in pursuance of the previous Resolution and Alderman F. W. Smith will second the proposal.

The Mayor will then put the proposal to the Council and invite Sir John to take the oath and sign the Roll.

The Town Clerk will then administer the Oath and Sir John will sign the Roll.

The Oath reads as follows:—

“ You swear that you will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and successors according to law, that you will observe the Laws and Ordinances of the Realm and the Bye Laws of the Borough of Calne in the County of Wilts and will do all that lies within your power to promote the interests of the Borough and the welfare of its people.

So help you God ”.

The Mayor will congratulate the Freeman, and will present him with a Certificate under the Borough Seal with the Crests of the Borough and of the County on either side.

The new Freeman will reply.

Sir John Bodinnar descended from an old Cornish family. He was educated privately and took Honours in the Accountancy profession.

His first Wife, formerly Miss Mabel Frost Latham, died in September 1948. There were two children, a Son who was killed on active service in 1941, and a Daughter, Mrs. Edna Mabel Lewis, who is the wife of Dr. Peter C. Lewis of Hove.

Sir John married Miss Glenys Lloyd-Roberts in October 1949.

Sir John was appointed to the Board of C. & T. Harris (Calne) Limited as financial adviser, and is now Chairman or Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of Groups of Companies. He served in the Food Ministry throughout the 1914-1918 War. In 1937 he was appointed to assist the Government's Food (Defence) Plans Committee, and in 1939 was appointed Director of Bacon and Ham and Director of Bacon Production. In 1941, at the special invitation of Lord Woolton, he accepted the appointment (unpaid) of Commercial Secretary and Head of the Supply Department which appointment he relinquished in 1945, and was Commercial Adviser in 1946 to the Minister of Food. He was knighted in 1941 in recognition of his public services.

He is the Chairman of the Bacon Marketing Board and a member of the Bacon Development Board. He served as President of the Food Manufacturers Federation from 1947 to 1949 and has been Chairman of the Food Industries Council from its inception in 1947.

He is a member of the Royal Warrant Holders Association, and was elected President for the year 1952 and on termination of his year of office was elected to the Honorary Treasurership.

He has been President of the Institute of Certificated Grocers (Educational) since 1932.

In 1948 the Institute raised a fund of over £10,000 in his honour, which tribute he devoted to the provision of Bodinnar Scholarships for the benefit of younger members of the Food Trades, to enable them to pursue a full-time course of study in management and administration. Influential members of the manufacturing, wholesale and retail branches of the grocery, provisions and allied food trades marked the esteem in which he is held by making a presentation to him in 1948 of his portrait in oils, painted by David Jagger.

He has been a Justice of the Peace for Wiltshire for over 25 years, and was for many years Chairman of the Calne Bench. At his own request to the Lord Chancellor he was placed on the supplementary list in May 1952.

He was for some years a member of the Wilts County Council, Mayor of Calne from 1925 to 1928 and a Governor of St. Mary's School and the Bentley Grammar School. During his Mayoralty he gave the Council a bronze tablet which is installed in the Council Chamber, bearing the names of Mayors of Calne. He also gave the Council the Borough Mace, which he has also recently had re-gilded, and the Council ceremonial robes and hats. In 1936 he gave the Town Council North End Playing Field. During his years of office he organised successful shopping weeks in Calne, which will long be remembered by the inhabitants of the Borough.

He has for some years been a member of the Worshipful Company of Farmers and was admitted a Freeman of the City of London in February 1953.

Sir John is the Principal of C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd., and their many subsidiary companies and branches. He has always aimed at the improvement of the working conditions of all employees and their happiness. He takes a keen interest in the well-being of all retired employees. He has provided excellent social and recreational facilities at all factories. In March 1952 he put into operation a free Sickness Benefit Scheme for all employees who were eligible to qualify in a well-known Benefit Society, and for those who were not eligible owing to age limit, he set up a Voluntary Scheme, which he personally supervises. In advance of the Whitley Scheme of Employees' Councils, he set up a Works Council in each factory under his control, so as to create direct avenues of approach

between the Management and the Employees. These Works Councils, to which Sir John attaches the greatest importance, are still operating with great success, and maintain cordial working relationships in all negotiations and matters of mutual concern to the Management and Employees. Sir John's great happiness is to be among the staffs of the many factories connected with the main Company and he maintains close touch with all Employees and their families, and all retired folk, in times of sickness or other adversity.

